

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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REMARKS TO THE PRESS
BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND
SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM
FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING
AT THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
September 2, 1976

SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM: Ladies and gentlemen, I had a useful and very interesting exchange of views with the Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger, on the international situation in general and special problems concerning the United Nations. We discussed the Middle East, the situation in southern Africa, the question of Cyprus, and of course the Law of the Sea Conference.

I am most grateful to Dr. Kissinger for this opportunity, especially because all of the problems we have discussed this morning are on the agenda of the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations. It was, therefore, most helpful to me to know the position of the Government of the United States.

This is all I wish to say, and I now give the floor to Dr. Kissinger.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I would like to express the appreciation of the United States Government for the distinguished role which the Secretary-General is playing on all of the key issues with respect to peace-keeping and improving the international climate in which he is involved; and we talked about the Middle East, about Cyprus, about southern Africa, about the Law of the Seas. And I would only add to his description -- to his adjective "useful" -- the adjective "cordial" for our talks.

Thank you very much.

I'll be glad to answer some questions.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, did your discussions about economic financing of the regime go well last night?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Of course, all of the delegations will have to speak for themselves. I had a good discussion yesterday with

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about sixteen members of Committee I. I met this morning with the head of the Mexican delegation and with the Peruvian delegate in Committee I, Sri Lanka, Norway. And I have the impression that there is now an understanding that some progress will have to be made on all sides and that our proposals of yesterday may provide a basis for some counter-proposals by some others -- and, even if not for some precise counter-proposals, to move forward perhaps towards a consolidated text which can be an instrument of negotiation at the next session.

With respect to Committee II and III, I am very hopeful that we will reach a substantial conclusion of the effort. So, altogether, if the Conference continues on the course which we believe possible, it will have made a significant step forward.

QUESTION: Are you prepared to state what that economic proposal was?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, we have proposed that we would see to the financing of the international Enterprise; and, also, we have agreed to a 25-year, or some agreed period, review clause. Considering the particular concern of many of the Group of 77 was that the international Enterprise might not have the financing or the technical capability to proceed, our offer to put it into business concurrently -- or nearly concurrently -- with private or state Enterprises should go a long step towards meeting their needs. And you have to remember that in a situation in which the United States at this moment possesses practically a monopoly of technology, we have agreed to put all of it under an international regime -- half of it under an international Enterprise -- and to provide the financing for the international Enterprise, and to provide a review after 25 years. So we think we have made a significant contribution.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, the question of the admission of Viet-Nam is coming to the UN again next week. Could you tell us whether the United States intends to use the veto again?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I would not want to deprive you of the suspense that is inherent in this question prematurely. For us, the issue of missing-in-action is of course a key issue, and we want to see whether any progress can be made there.

QUESTION: When you see Prime Minister Vorster at the end of this week, are you prepared to press him hard on these two points: First, that elections in Namibia come off in a matter of months, not years; and secondly, that they come out -- that they are undertaken -- not under just international supervision, as I believe Mr. Vorster has mentioned, but under United Nations supervision?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I have made several statements this week about our position with respect to southern Africa which

have achieved the unique result of being criticized both by some black members of the Congress and by Prime Minister Vorster. I think, considering that I will be meeting him within 48 hours, I should not go beyond what I have already stated publicly and leave something for the discussions that will then take place.

QUESTION: Do you intend to --

QUESTION: -- the Magnuson bill and the effect of the conservancy zone --

QUESTION: -- terrorist resultuion, a topic to be discussed at the upcoming General Assembly?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: What did you say? Would you begin again?

QUESTION: Yes, sir. Mr. Secretary, terrorism is an issue that has been before the UN --

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Yes.

QUESTION: -- for some time now. An effort is being made, has been made. Do you, as the United States representative, see any prospect for a solution to this issue here?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, we beleive that terrorism is an issue that affects the whole international community and which must be solved by the international community. The use of innocent people to effect decisions in which they have absolutely no role and in which they have no capacity for action is unconscionable. And the United States will support any effort by others -- and, failing that, will make major efforts of its own to get an international agreement that will bring the common action of the world community to bear of the issue of terrorism.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, has the United States changed its postion on admission of Angola to the United Nations?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: As we pointed out repeatedly, our concern with Angola is not the regime that is in power in Angola. Our concern is the issue of the presence of a Cuban expeditionary force of very substantial size in that country. That, too, is an issue in which informal consultations are taking place here now, and we are not prepared to state our position now.

QUESTION: Have any of the Cuban troops been withdrawn?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We, frankly, have great difficulty determining whether there has been a net outflow of Cubans. Some Cubans have been withdrawn; others seem to have arrived. And we do not have a clear perception of whether there has been a significant net outflow.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, on your planned trip this weekend when you talk to Prime Minister Vorster, is it your plan also to talk with him and the black African leaders on this particular trip -- and, two, is there any likelihood of you having any discussion with Ian Smith himself directly, which might lead to repeal, for example, of the Byrd Amendment?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Whether I will go on from Zurich to Africa has not yet been completely decided. I want to have consultations with the Government of Great Britain, which has itself been in consultation with key African countries and which has an important role to play there -- especially in Rhodesia -- and I want to make an assessment of where we stand after those talks. There is a possibility that I will go to discuss the issues -- especially of Namibia and Rhodesia -- with the presidents of black African states and see whether some progress can be made.

I do not think a final solution of these issues is likely in the very near future. But if I believe that some progress can be made, I may undertake the trip.

I have no plan now to talk with Ian Smith, and I consider it almost out of the question that I would be meeting with him.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, in Lebanon, you now have two emissaries working with the Christian side. Does this indicate that the US is moving towards recognizing a partition?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No. The United States is opposed to the partition of Lebanon. It maintains the independence and sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. However, our Embassy in Beirut has found it impossible to communicate with the Christian part of Lebanon; and when our Ambassador attempted to cross over, as you know, some months ago, he was assassinated. We have, therefore, found it technically more convenient to send in people via Cyprus. They will be there for about a week of consultations, and they will then return. And our hope would be that conditions will soon exist in which the Embassy in Beirut can perform its functions in both parts of Lebanon and not force us into the present measures.

We will not support partition of Lebanon, and this visit is simply an opportunity to get the views of the Christian leaders that we have not had an opportunity to obtain for the last few months.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, how would you assess the passage of the Magnuson bill and the unilateral extension of a 200-mile conservancy zone at this particular time under bargaining position of the United States and upon the success of this particular Conference?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, we were opposed to the unilateral extension of the 200-mile zone as an Administration, and we went along with it because we were afraid that it would lead to a set of unilateral moves by other countries -- which, indeed, it has contributed to.

However, I believe now that Committee II, which is dealing substantially with that issue, is close to a solution. And if that should prove to be the case, then I would have to say that even though we did not favor the Magnuson bill it has not impeded the progress of the negotiations.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, in your speech in Philadelphia you stated that the United States would not accept what you call the one-sided and unilateral declarations that were issues at the Colombo Non-Aligned Summit. In those declarations the non-aligned countries stated that unless there was substantial progress at the Paris North-South talks, that they were prepared to take some unilateral step, particularly on the question of the question of general debt moratorium.

What would be your response to a declaration along those lines by either a group of or a number of Third World countries?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I am not saying that every last statement that was made in Colombo had the character of a one-sided declaration. In general, we do not believe it is appropriate for any country or group of countries to proceed with the threat of a unilateral action in issues that require really multilateral solutions. We have been opposed to a general debt moratorium because it is our believe that this will penalize those countries that have made a major effort to put their house in order.

We are prepared, however, to engage in discussions about general principles of debt relief that can be applied on a case-by-case basis; we are prepared to let others put forward their proposals in the North-South dialogue and to examine them with an open mind.

What our reaction would be in a hypothetical case that hasn't arisen, I cannot now predict because it isn't possible for debtors to put a debt moratorium unilaterally into operation without serious consequences to themselves.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, last year the United States proposed a resolution at the General Assembly calling for amnesty for political prisoners. Do you foresee any similar initiatives being taken by the United States this year in the UN?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We have not yet decided the full range of the initiatives that we are going to put forward at the General Assembly.

QUESTION: Will President Ford address the General Assembly?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I do not know whether I want to deprive myself of an opportunity to speak to all of my colleagues here. This is a decision that the President has to make in the light

of his other schedules here. There is no present plan for him to speak at the General Assembly.

I will take one more question.

QUESTION: The question of the Middle East was discussed between yourself and the Secretary-General. Can you tell us whether any new initiative -- either on your part or on the UN part or anything -- was discussed and you knew of the making or sensed it?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, the Secretary-General was kind enough to give me his impressions from the Non-Aligned Conference and of the attitude of those Arab leaders that he had an opportunity to exchange views with at the Non-Aligned Conference. And I would not expect a specific initiative -- at least, on our part -- and the Secretary-General would have to talk for himself in the immediate future. But our general concern that progress in the Middle East towards peace is necessary, that negotiations will have to be resumed, and that the current situation should not be frozen, have reaffirmed this position and we will be continuing to exchange views on how to bring progress.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary --

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I have to go on to Washington. I will have to make this the last question.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, to what degree might this -- an election year -- help or hinder your efforts in South Africa?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I have not noticed that it being an election year greatly helps the efforts.

The reason for action in southern Africa has nothing to do with elections in the United States, because any study of our electoral arithmetic makes clear that this is not a significant issue. The reason we are concerned with making progress in southern Africa is because there is a guerrilla war going on in Rhodesia today, that it is certain to escalate -- the loss of life is going to increase, the complexities are going to mount -- and it simply cannot wait for our electoral process.

With respect to Namibia, which is a separable problem, there is a time limit before the international community. And there, too, the situation is going to deteriorate substantially -- both on the ground and internationally -- unless a serious effort is made.

We are conducting our policy in order to bring peace to a troubled area and to serve the national interests of the United States. It can have no impact on our election that I can discern.

Thank you.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.